GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4984
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
SHRINKING OF NATURAL CONSERVATION ZONE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken adequate measures/ steps taken to tackle the problem of shrinking of Natural Conservation Zones (NCZs) like forests, water bodies and waste lands in the National Capital Region, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) No such reports have been received in this Ministry in this regard. As per the India State of Forest Report 2013, there is an increase of 3.6 sq km and 11 sq km respectively in the State of Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and a decrease of 22 sq km and 1 sq km respectively in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan as compared to 2011assessment. To ensure conser- vation of Natural Conservation Zone (NCZ), like forests, water bodies and waste lands in the National Capital Region, including areas of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has issued advisory to the National Capital Region Planning Board to take into consideration various factors while finalizing Regional Plan 2021 of the National Capital Region. To tackle this issue and to increase green cover in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change provides Grants-in-aid to Governments of States and Union Territories under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS) for conservation and development of forests. In addition to this, afforestation is also undertaken for improving the forest cover under other Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), etc. Grants are also provided under the Thirteenth Finance Commission, Compensatory Affore- station Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) and externally aided projects for development and conservation of forests. Further, State Governments have proposed action plans for carrying out the restoration and reforestation work and other related activities such as fixing of boundary pillars, construction of pucca masonary walls around the forest areas, construction of soil and moisture conservation structures to improve water regime in the area and rehabilitating the area by plantation activities.